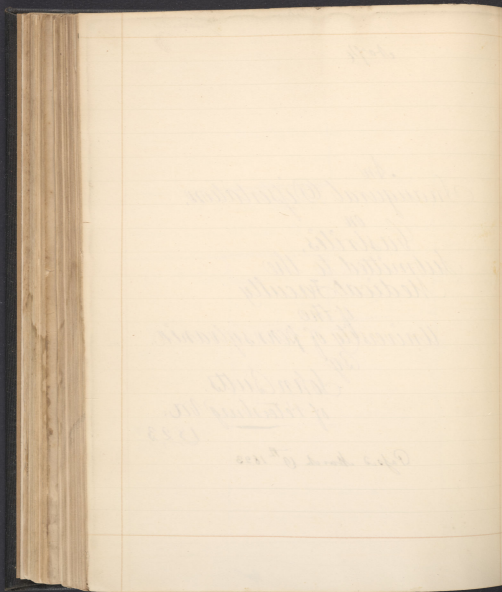


No 74

An
Inaugural Dissertation,
on
Gastritis,
Submitted to the
Medical Faculty
of the
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By
John Butts,
of Petersburg Va.

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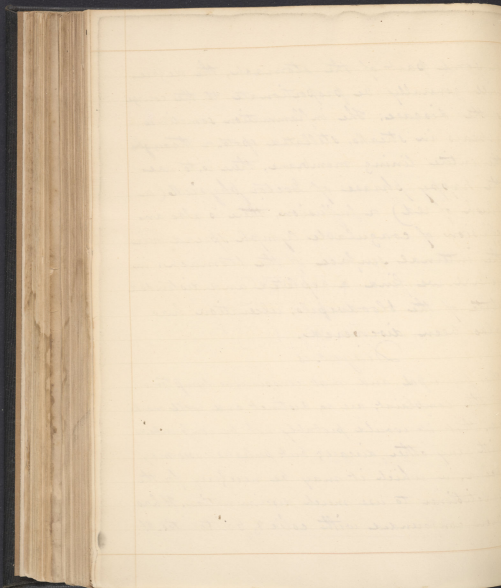
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on some part of the stomach, the degree will generally be proportionate to the course of the disease. The inflammation sometimes appears in streaks, stellated spots, or through the entire lining membrane, there is, to use the happy phrase of Doctor Physick (a blush of red) or suffusion, there is also an effusion of coagulable lymph spread over the internal surface of the stomach; in general, we find a repleted and distended state of the bloodvessels; ulceration has also been discovered.

Diagnosis

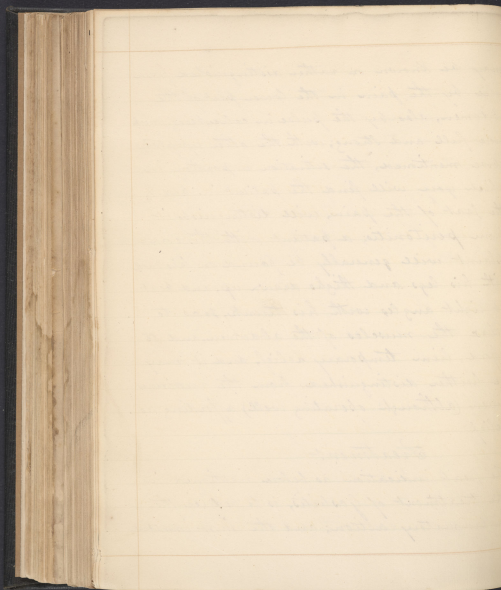
The principal and most conspicuous symptoms of this complaint, are so distinct and well marked, that it would probably not be confounded with any other disease; but, perhaps cases may occur, in which it may be necessary for the practitioner to use much discrimination. It has been confounded with colic & peritonitis. It



may be known or rather distinguished from colic by the pain in the lower part of the abdomen, also by the pulse in colic, being much more full and strong; with the other symptoms above mentioned, the situation or position in which you will find the patient in bed, & the seat of the pain, will distinguish it from peritonitis; a patient with this complaint will generally be found on his back with his legs and thighs drawn up, and bent at right angles with his trunk, so as to relax the muscles of the abdomen, and to afford him temporary relief, and it may be further distinguished from the medicine given (although operating well) affording no relief.

Treatment

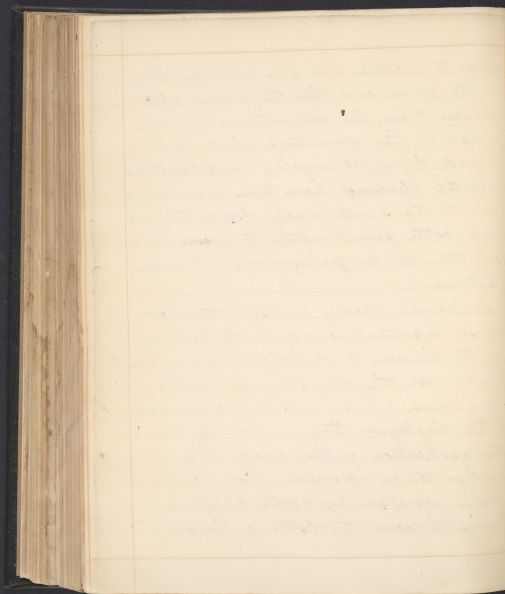
The great indication as before mentioned in the treatment of Gastritis, is to reduce the inflammatory action; and the most immediate



and effectual means of lessening this action is by venesection; a just estimate of the value of this remedy will easily be conceived, if we reflect, that this disease is an acute inflammation of an organ, the most irritable and delicate in its nature, and, unless we are possessed of some such prompt and efficient means of arresting its progress, the patient must inevitably, and that in a very short time, fall a victim to its violence; to obtain the fullest and most beneficial results from this remedy, we must, without regard to the pulse, attack the complaint with fearlessness and rapidity, taking away thirty or forty ounces of blood, and repeating in a very short time, if the indications still continue. In a majority of cases which require venesection its apparent effect is to reduce febrile action; in the disease now under consideration it

seems to increase, and give natural action to the pulse, and thus the disease is developed. From this circumstance, we may judge of the advantage which we have derived from its employment; small, and repeated bleedings have been recommended but to this I will merely observe, that we had better permit nature to relieve herself than be too sparing of our art in her assistance.

Topical bleeding constitutes the next most important remedy in the treatment of this disease, to be followed by a large blister over the epigastric region; the beneficial effects of blisters are no where better displayed than in Gastritis; but, in the application of this remedy there is a caution to be observed which is emphatically expressed by Doctor Chapman: "never to recur to blisters in diseases of



high action, until you have reduced that action, by venesection, and other depletory measures; it will naturally occur to us, that the blister should be applied as near the seat of the disease as possible. some physicians have recommended small blisters, but this is a pernicious practice a large blister occasions no more pain, & the benefit resulting therefrom is considerably increased. - Fomentations may also be applied with no small degree of benefit: such as bladders filled with warm water, or towels immersed in warm spirits and applied to the abdomen; It is a very desirable object in the commencement of this complaint, to calm irritability of the stomach, which is generally excessive, so much so, that it nearly precludes the exhibition of any medicines, except, those used as palliatives of these symptoms; the following are generally preferred; lime

water & milk, effervescent draught in small doses, warm bath, hot fomentations and anodyne enemata; at the same time it is necessary to subdue costiveness, which is nearly an universal attendant; and to effect this we must resort to enemata used frequently, and in large quantities, composed of the mildest articles, such as castor oil, olive oil, molasses, tepid water &c. or, should a more stimulating one be required, a little common salt should be added; should the above fail, then resort to the terebinthinate clyster - made by blending intimately one or two table spoonfuls of the oil of turpentine, with the yolk of eggs, adding a pint of water or thin mucilage of gum arabic or Rhea seed

after the stomach is in a condition to receive the proper medicines, it will be necessary to evacuate thoroughly, the alimentary

canal, and for this purpose we should here have recourse to calomel, as it appears best adapted to the case, and because it will remain on the stomach when almost every other article would be rejected.

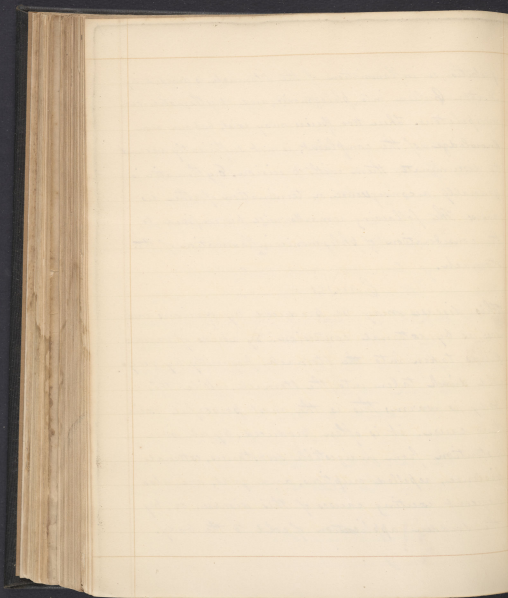
Epsom salts appears well suited in the same case, and in many instances where calomel has failed, the happiest effects have been obtained from its use. Thirst, which is usually very urgent, should be alleviated by the mildest fluids given frequently and in small quantities, as the cold infusion of balm, seltzer water, or milk have been highly recommended. Doctor Chapman speaks very highly of a solution of liquorice, in cases of this nature, the diet when necessary for the support of the patient, should be regulated on the same principle, being of the lightest & most simple kind, such as demulcent drinks. In the last stage

of this complaint; we find it necessary to support and invigorate the system, and here the active and most diffusible stimuli are indicated; among the most useful of them is the spirits of turpentine, employed externally and opium & other articles calculated to meet the same indication internally; our resources in the treatment of this disease are very limited, and unless it is subverted in its onset by the most energetic and depletory measures, our utmost exertions will prove ineffectual. But, on the contrary, if, in the commencement, we assail it with our most efficient remedies and arrest its rapid career, our efforts in a majority of cases, will be attended with the reward most pleasing to the physician, the recovery of his patient =

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Gastritis or inflammation of the stomach, is divided by
Doctor Cullen into phlegmonia, and erythematic or
erysipelatous. These two species may exist; but our own
knowledge of the complaint, is not sufficiently accurate
to discriminate them with precision. Erythematic, is
generally a consequence, or termination of other dis-
eases. The following remarks will be confined to
the consideration of phlegmonia inflammation of the
stomach.

Causes

This disease may be produced by various cau-
ses; as by external contusion, by acids of various
kinds taken into the stomach; frequently, by very
cold drink taken into the stomach, while the
body is warm; this is the most powerful exci-
ting cause. it is often produced, by an over-
distention from indigestible substances, external
violence, repelled eruptions, and gout, are also
frequent exciting causes of this disease, or, by
the sudden application of cold to the body.



Symptoms

The disease thus produced, is characterized, by an acute, fixed pain, and sense of burning heat in the region of the stomach, which, is increased by the reception of any food into it, by motion, or external pressure; the pain is not always confined to the epigastric region, but, in some instances extends to the false ribs & back. there is sudden, and great prostration of strength, the pulse is small, quick, and corded, great irritation of the stomach, attended with copious vomiting, considerable thirst, extreme forenoon about the precordia, anxiety of mind, tension about the epigastric and umbilical regions, obstinate constipation, wildness of the eyes, delirium, haggard countenance, cold clammy sweats, hiccough, and death finally closes the scene.

As, in many other diseases, we have anomalous cases, sometimes we have hydropho-

bie symptoms, at others the disease is very insi-
dious in its attack, there being no symptoms
denoting the existence of the disease. Doctor
Chapman relates an instance, in which it
attacked the great toe, assuming the appear-
ance of regular podagra; a spasmodic
contraction of the muscles of the arm, and
an inflammation of the groin or peritum
have been mentioned by Doctor physick
as other delusive symptoms. The various
terminations of other inflammations, have
been ascribed to this disease; owing to the
acute sensibility, and the unlimited con-
nections of the stomach with the rest of
the system, it is natural to suppose, that
any thing calculated to excite this exci-
sive irritability, will not allow time for
suppuration; but will, unda speedily reme-
dia, act more immediately on the system,
and occasion death

Prognosis

The first and great indication in the treatment of this disease, is to effect a resolution of the inflammation as soon as possible; and a tendency to this, is known by the remarkable mildness of the symptoms, and their yielding to the proper remedies; and should this favourable termination be produced, we have some critical evacuation, either by perspiration, diarrhoea, or urine, the pulse becomes more soft and full, and diminishes in frequency, the pain gradually ceases, and the disease is stopped short; but on the contrary, if an uncommon severity of the symptoms exist; and there is no evident disposition to resolution after the application of our most efficient remedies, we must be prepared to meet the worst; Examinations post mortem generally exhibit some appearance of inflammation, either on the whole

